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STATINTL

THE SPY COUP IN RUSSIA

Rocketry Marshal Bounced

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WASHINGTON.

Top officials of Soviet rocket and anti-missile forces were relieved or demoted yesterday, exploding the simmering Penkovsky affair into the Soviet Union's biggest spy scandal.

Izvestia announced in Moscow that Marshal Sergei S. Varentsov, Red Army artillery chief, had been ousted from his post and stripped of his rank.

According to information available here last night, Marshal Varentsov actually is Commander in Chief of the Soviet Union's rocket forces. Also demoted and relieved was his aide, Col. V. M. Buzinov.

Maj. Gen. A. R. Pozovny, chief of political intelligence for air and missile forces in the Soviet Union, and Col. D. B. Peyroskino, a military intelligence officer attached to his command, also were relieved, it was learned here.

These men are what United States armed forces call "top brass." And their demotion and relief indicate the degree to which the Russian high command has been shaken by inroads of British and U. S. intelligence agents into their own intelligence and command structure.

THE PLOT

The announcement in the Soviet government newspaper Izvestia went into detail only in the case of Marshal Varentsov. It described Gen. Pozovny and Col. Buzinov only by name, and also said certain other persons had been relieved. It gave no indication of Marshal Varentsov's role as chief of rocket forces.

Marshal Varentsov was specifically charged with having helped executed spy Col. Oleg Penkovsky get his job as deputy chief of the foreign section of the Soviet State Committee for Scientific Research, and with having arranged for a reversal of Penkovsky's dishonorable discharge from the army.

Izvestia said the other men had shown secret information to Col. Penkovsky, and that they had been disciplined.

One of the charges made against Col. Penkovsky at his Moscow show trial earlier this month was that he had passed rocket secrets to the West.

The colonel was convicted and his execution was announced several days later. A British business man, Greville M. Wynne, was also convicted and sentenced to eight years deprivation of freedom.

Power Struggle

It was evident from the beginning that this was more than just a routine spy case. And as facts began to come out, Western observers saw that a major power struggle was developing in the Kremlin. Penkovsky ought to have been seen weren't seen any more. The Herald Tribune learned that Soviet cloak-and-dagger men around the world were called home for "consultations." And then yesterday, the first big heads officially rolled.

Later he got Penkovsky his job with the Scientific Committee.

Izvestia said Marshal Varentsov had not even known Penkovsky during World War II. The marshal was then an artillery commander on the Ukrainian front. Penkovsky was also on the scene.

At Highest Defense Level

Varentsov was named a marshal in 1955 and in 1961 he was promoted to chief of artillery. At that time there was speculation he might become commander of Soviet missile forces, but it had never been officially announced that he had held the post.

His ouster bears out assumption that Penkovsky was on friendly terms with officials at the highest level in the Soviet

defense hierarchy, some of whom reportedly were in sharp disagreement with overall Soviet military policies.

Izvestia's announcement came in the form of an interview with Lt. Gen. A. G. Gorny, prosecutor at the Penkovsky-Wynne trial.

Gen. Gorny noted that there had been rumors that Penkovsky was in fact not shot as announced, but still alive and serving as a Soviet spy under another name.

"Died Like a Coward"

Gen. Gorny denied this, saying that the ex-colonel had had a farewell prison interview with his mother and then "died like a despicable coward" on May 16.

Although Gen. Gorny did his best to build up Penkovsky as a traitor, he also sought to minimize the effectiveness of Penkovsky's alleged espionage.

"After the trial," Gen. Gorny said, "some Soviet citizens got the impression that Penkovsky divulged to the enemy nearly all the secrets connected with the military equipment and defense potential of the Soviet state. This impression is groundless."

"Penkovsky at the post which he occupied stood far from the materials connected with the arming of our forces, their location and introduction of new types of armaments. . . ."

Gen. Gorny said Marshal Varentsov and the others he named "were unaware of Penkovsky's espionage activities and therefore are not criminally responsible."